October 23, 1968

Dr. John G. Herriot
Department of Computer Science
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Professor Herriot:

Dr. Edward A. Feigenbaum, as you mentioned to me, is being considered for
promotion to full professor, and I am very happy to give my own unreserved
endorsement to this promotion. I have worked quite closely with Ed for
several years and in many different ways find him to be one of the most
useful colleagues that one could hope to have on this campus.

One of our main areas of contact has been our collaboration on the Dendral
project, and it may be important foryour consideration that I emphasize the
equal and complementary roles that we have had in making it work. It is true
that I furnished the original impetus for the project and much of the technical
background in organic chemistry, as well as some of the initial formulation of
the problem in graph-theoretical terms. The over-all system organization of
the program and the tidiness with which it exemplifies many of the leading
ideas of the current traditions of artificial intelligence are very largely
Dr. Feigenbaum's contribution I have in the process learned a great deal
myself about the field, and have found it an extremely stimulating process to
exchange ideas with him on how to continue efforts on the simulation of human
intelligence. There is a great deal that is pragmatic and common sense in the
implementation of the program, and I do not think this can be taken as a criti-
cism in a field where there have been many vaguely formulated ideas and few
concrete expressions of them for useful purposes.

I would suggest that you regard the Dendral work as contributory evidence that
Ed's obvious promise will continue to be fulfilled. It is also obvious that
he has suffered in his actual scholarly productivity from the demands on his
time which are made by his responsibilities as the director of the computation
center. I do not believe that one ought to give weight to such considerations
purely on faith, but they must certainly be taken into account in evaluating
the effective mass of his scholarly work, given a proper appreciation of the
quality of what he has produced nevertheless.

No one would begin to compare Ed with, for example, Professor McCarthy for
brilliance and profundity of intellect, but I would suggest that Stanford is
especially fortunate to be able to have both a McCarthy and a Feigenbaum on
its roster.

                                        Sincerely yours,

                                        Joshua Lederberg
                                        Professor of Genetics